(v) Training and presentations are being given to the senior Telecom. Officers for better awareness regarding effective detection and prevention of such illegal set ups.

(vi) A close coordination between the service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.

Illegal telephone exchange

2423. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of officials of DoT and MTNL raided premises on the 6th August, 2004 near Kalkaji Bus Depot in South Delhi and unearthed an illegal telephone exchange running there;

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto;

(c) the particulars of persons arrested in this connection;

(d) the loss Government have suffered, so far, due to the illegal international phone calls made through the illegal telephone exchange; and

(e) the measures Government have taken to curb the flourishing international phone calls market and the extent of success achieved in these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A team of officers of DoT, MTNL, VSNL and Delhi Police raided the premises at 118/2 llnd Floor, Govindpuri near Kalkaji Bus Depot In South Delhi and unearthed an illegal telephone exchange running for incoming international calls.

(c) Two private persons namely, Bini S P and Bini S K were arrested by the police.

(d) The estimated loss suffered is Rupees one crore and thirty lakh. This loss is national only and estimated on the assumption that if these calls would have passed through legal gateways, the Government and service providers could have earned this revenue.

(e) The following measures have been taken in the matter:

(i) FIRs have been filed with the police authorities.

(ii) Surveillance has been increase to detect the frauds by inspecting bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the calls traffic.

(iii) Dedicated CBI cells have been set up in four metros for exclusively detecting and checking telecom related frauds.

(iv) Department of Telecom. has issued instructions/guidelines to all service providers for effective monitoring, detection and prevention of such illegal set ups/frauds.

(v) Training and presentations are being given to the senior Telecom. Officers for better awareness regarding effective detection and prevention of such illegal set ups.

(vi) A close coordination between the service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.

Due to above actions 184 such cases have been successfully unearthed by CBI/DoT/Police authorities/service providers so far.

Reduction in ISD/STD rates

2424. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL have recently reduced the rates of ISD and STD calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof *vis-a-vis* earlier rates;

(c) whether MTNL has not offered similar reduction in rates thereby depriving the subscribers of Delhi and Mumbai of reduction in rates;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when, MTNL is likely to similarly reduce the rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have reduced their ISD and STD tariff *w.e.f.* 10.4.2004. The details of ISD tariff of BSNL' are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below). STD tariff for a distance